

Direct Air Support Central Airborne System (DASCAS)



Description

The Direct Air Support Central Airborne System (DASCAS) consists of one shelter that can be mounted in specially modified KC-130F/R/T aircraft or the bed of an M923/925 or Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) truck. Seven operators within the DASCAS can select from seven radios—three ultra-high frequency, two high frequency, one very-high frequency, and one satellite communication (SATCOM). The DASCAS is a replacement for the AN/UYQ-3A. Its function is to complement the AN/MRQ-12 Communication Interface System by performing the air mission for the Direct Air Support Center (DASC). The DASCAS can also be used as a forward element of the DASC and, when necessary, can assume deep-battle management functions. There are 10 AN-UYQ-3As within the Marine Corps that will be replaced by the DASCAS.

Operational Impact

The DASCAS will augment the ground-based DASC as a principle agency for the coordination and control of offensive air support operations. The DASCAS can operate in either an autonomous mode or in conjunction with other control elements of the Marine Air Command and Control System. The fielding of the upgraded DASCAS will not cause any doctrinal changes in the DASCAS function.

Program Status

The DASCAS received a favorable Milestone C, full-rate production decision in December 2003. DASCAS production began in FY 2003. Full operational capability will be achieved by the fourth quarter of FY 2005 with 10 systems. Future modifications to the DASCAS will allow the system to be used in the KC-130J as an initial step toward a Common Aviation Command and Control System (CAC2S) based airborne command and control (C2) node.

Procurement Profile: FY 05 FY 06

Quantity: 5 0

Developer/Manufacturer:
Naval Surface Warfare Center Division, Crane, IN
TBD